poorly prepared and politically confused. Its only outstanding feature was the reports of the army representatives. Conditions at the front were alarming, they told the convention. The morale of the troops had been very low even before the fall of the Tsar. Then the revolution created a vacuum in the psychology of the soldiers, whose military indoctrination was based on allegiance to the Tsar. After the Tsar was deposed, only new ideas could hold the army together. A new peace policy could be the answer. The task was to make it clear to the soldiers that the revolution had changed the war objectives radically. The campaign for the army's revival was to be merged with the peace campaign.

Tseretelli was the keynote speaker on national defense. I had to draft the resolution stressing the role of a strong army in the defense of the revolution. "As long as the war lasts," I wrote, "weakening the army's capacity for active operations would be a blow to freedom and vital interests of the nation. For the purpose of effective defense of revolutionary Russia against aggression, the people of Russia must mobilize all their force to strengthen the front and rear."

This draft, violently assailed from the left as militaristic drum-beating, found warm support among the representatives of the front organizations and the resolution was carried by an overwhelming majority. Of eighty delegates who called themselves Bolsheviks, thirty voted for the resolution. Its significance lay in the fact that it committed the Petrograd Soviet to a definite policy not only toward the front army but also toward the rear garrisons, and especially the Petrograd garrison.

Most of the regiments in the capital were "reserve" regiments, designed for training recruits and providing reinforcements to the front—usually entire companies with equipment and officers. This practice was interrupted by the March revolution. Since that time, in view of the revolutionary reputation of the Petrograd garrison, commanders at the front had not been eager to get reinforcements from the capital. However, the majority in the Executive Committee believed that the Petrograd garrison should not be exempted from the defense effort demanded of the whole nation. After the convention, the Soldiers' Section passed a resolution instructing the Petrograd regiments to resume sending marching companies to the front as demanded by the War Ministry.

The Bolsheviks seized the occasion to incite the soldiers to disobey the order. "The imperialistic war waged by the Provisional Government," they said, "serves only the wealthy classes. Let them fight the war! The revolutionary regiments must remain in the capital to defend the revolution!"

These arguments appealed strongly to the enlisted men. Dispatch

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